

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 255

By McCord

A RESOLUTION to recognize the week of May 8-14, 2005 as
"National Tourism Week in Tennessee".

WHEREAS, tourists and travelers spent over \$10.8 billion in Tennessee during the year 2003, generating over \$800 million in state and local tax revenue; and

WHEREAS, the borders of Tennessee are within a day's drive of two thirds of the nation's population; last year, 43 million visitors came to or went through Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, tourism is one of the State's largest industries, employing more than 173,000 people in positions ranging from entry-level to middle to uppermanagement; and

WHEREAS, the State adopted "The Stage is Set for You!" as the catchphrase for its official tourism campaign; the phrase subtly pays homage to the many be-staged venues in Tennessee and also gestures toward the State's scenic vistas, historical attractions, and cultural centers; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee is proud to be the home of such luminous and internationally famous attractions as the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the Grand Ole Opry, the National Civil Rights Museum, Graceland, Jack Daniel's distillery, the Tennessee River Freshwater Pearl Farm, the Country Music Hall of Fame, Dollywood, the Memphis and Nashville Zoos, the Bristol Motor Speedway, and many more; and

WHEREAS, in 1976, the Tennessee General Assembly, recognizing the value of the travel industry, created the first cabinet-level tourism agency in the nation; and

WHEREAS, the value of the tourism industry to this State is unquestioned, and its preservation and promotion is of great importance to Tennessee's economy; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, that we hereby recognize the week of Sunday, May 8 through Saturday, May 14 as "National Tourism Week in Tennessee", thus marking the twenty-second anniversary of such national observance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.